

**Minutes From a Meeting of the Concordia Council on
Student Life
Held on Friday, October 31, 2003
Loyola Campus AD 308 10:00am**

PRESENT: Dr. C. Bertrand, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Ms W. Avalos, Ms S. Bakarally, Mr. P. Blais, Mr. R. Côté, Ms M. Drew, Me P. Fréreau, Dr. S.M. Graub, Mr. B. Hamideh, Dr. J. Jans, Ms F. Naqvi, Ms S. Novembre, Mr. S. Rosenshein, Ms. D. Ross, Dr. F. Shaver, Ms K. Sheehan, Mr. A. Talaat Ms L. Gould, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms L. Toscano

ABSENT WITH REGRETS: Ms K. Hedrich, Mr. B. Farrington, Ms C. Steenbergen

GUESTS: Mr. L. Lawton, Ms A. Ghadban

DELEGATES: Ms I. Sendek for Mr. W. Curran, Mr. J. LaChance for Mr. Brisebois

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Dr. Jans and seconded by Mr. Hamideh.

A motion to approve the agenda was carried unanimously

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Bertrand welcomed Council to the first meeting of CCSL for 2003-2004. He explained that the September 2003 meeting had been cancelled as the undergraduate student representation had not been ratified by the CSU Council.

Dr. Bertrand introduced both Ms Katie Sheehan, the new Director of Recreation & Athletics and Me Pierre Fréreau, the interim Director of Advocacy and Support Services. He indicated that as there were new faces at the table, it would be an excellent opportunity to do a "tour de table".

Dr. Bertrand explained that as today's agenda was quite heavy and as some members of Council had previous commitments, the meeting would go no later than 12:00(noon). Outstanding items on the agenda would be deferred to the November CCSL meeting. He also reminded

council that any motions to be included on the agenda should be sent to CCSL Secretary no later than the Friday before the scheduled meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2003:

Dr. Bertrand asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that Ms D. Ross was in attendance at the April 4th CCSL meeting. Dr. Graub, seconded by Ms Drew, made a motion to approve the minutes.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was carried unanimously

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

5. REPORTS AND ITEMS OF INFORMATION

5.1 The CCSL Mandate was distributed for Council's information

5.2 The Student Services Year-end Statement was distributed for Council's information.

5.3 Recreation & Athletics: Ms Katie Sheehan spoke briefly about the process that Recreation & Athletics has been involved in for the past year. A short video on "The Future Search" was shown to CCSL. Ms Sheehan felt strongly that all the participants – students, staff, faculty, administrators – gained a great deal from this experience and came away rejuvenated and excited about the future of Athletics at the university. Dr. Bertrand thanked Ms Sheehan for a most interesting and informative presentation.

5.4 Directors' Reports: Dr. Bertrand indicated that the Student Services Directors reports for May 2003 had been distributed via the CCSL list-serve.

6. STUDENT LIFE ISSUES

Ms Fariha Naqvi felt there should be a more visible advertising of student services available at the Loyola Campus. Although ads publicizing the location of the Loyola Information Centre and its services were run in September and October in both student newspapers, Council was in agreement that different means of publicizing the various services should be investigated. The possibility of publicizing the services on the "student portal" system will be looked in to as well as ensuring that the Academic Faculties are aware of the services available at Loyola.

Ms Naqvi said that the study tables at SGW Campus are extremely dirty and specifically mentioned the tables on the 7th floor of the Hall Building. Ms Posius said there has been heavy usage of those tables. She offered as a solution to contact custodial services and arrange for a mid-day cleaning which should hopefully alleviate the problem.

Ms Naqvi asked about the use of the Mezz as study space. Dr. Bertrand replied that the Mezz has traditionally been reserved for study space during the months of December and April. As the Mezz is in high demand for events or exhibitions during the year, it is not always a conducive location for studying. However Dr. Bertrand said one of the goals of this year's CSU was to ensure that when the Mezz was not booked for events, it would be available as lounge/study space and would have the appropriate furnishings to improve the look. Ms Posius took the opportunity to explain that the new Science Building at Loyola has ample study/lounge space on each floor. She reiterated that as new buildings open, student space for studying, eating, etc will be a priority.

Ms Naqvi asked about the state of the escalators. Dr. Bertrand explained that often the escalators are turned off during the peak periods for safety reasons. The reality is that the Hall Building is an old building. At the time it was built, the capacity was expected to accommodate up to 16,000 persons. As the enrollment is now 32,000, the limitations of the building are becoming more pronounced.

Dr. Shaver asked why the clocks on the teaching computers are continually wrong. Ms Posius indicated that this is a simple problem to fix and IITS will be asked to correct the clocks.

Mr. Blais felt that with the addition of "high-tech goodies", students are feeling intimidated. There is a "big brother watching you" atmosphere. He also asked for an update on the incident involving university security and the beating of a homeless man. Mr. Lachance explained the new technology is there for the benefit of the students and will result in fewer university security guards being required. He indicated that the new services are working well and have actually resulted in a decrease in student theft and violence. With respect to the incident described by Mr. Blais, Mr. Lachance explained that as the incident in question is under investigation, he couldn't comment at this time. However, he said this incident is not representative of our university security.

Mr. Blais asked what steps the Dean of Students takes with respect to releasing nominative information on students. Dr. Bertrand confirmed

that information is only released to those persons who are authorized to receive it and where necessary Legal Counsel is consulted before releasing this information.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE RECREATION & ATHLETICS BOARD

Dr. Graub, as the new chair of the R&A Board, spoke briefly about the history of the Board. She explained that for the last year, the meetings of the Board were suspended until the results of the Future Search were completed. As a new director has been hired and the department has a new vision, Dr. Graub questioned whether there was a real need for this Board to continue. Dr. Jans expressed concern that a report from the Future Search had never been tabled with CCSL. Dr. Graub appreciated the concerns expressed and offered to meet with Katie Sheehan and report back to CCSL on this issue. Council was in agreement.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Appointments to CCSL Student Project Funding Committee

As one of the undergraduate student representatives, Mr. Farrington, was not present, Mr. Blais asked that the student representatives meet within the next week to decide the membership for both the Project Funding Committee and the CCSL Awards Committee. He indicated that this information would be given to the secretary of CCSL by Thursday, November 6th. Council had no objection but reiterated the importance of setting up these committees without further delay.

8.2 Motion #1 – Walksafe (Patrice Blais)

The motion, presented by Mr. Blais and seconded by Mr. Hamideh, was tabled for discussion. Mr. Blais indicated that as the walksafes, jackets, supplies and equipment were returned to the CSU, the last two points of the motion were moot. However, he asked that the remaining funds for the Walksafe program be transferred to the CSU to help initiate and implement a program for student safety on campus. Dr. Bertrand stated that following the referendum that approved the removal of the walksafes fee, a resolution was passed at BOG stating that the remaining walksafes funds should be deposited into the student initiative fund. He explained that CCSL cannot now approve a motion to transfer these funds to the CSU without approval from Bog. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that CSU would submit a request to the Student Initiative Projects Committee to request funds to set-up a program for student safety on campus. Mr. Blais asked for confirmation that the remaining Walksafe funds would be an addition to the current allocation for student initiated project funds. He

also asked for confirmation that as long as the request was submitted properly with a clear budget, detailed description and plan, that the request would be considered favourably by the committee. This was the understanding of Council. Mr. Blais withdrew his motion. Mr. Hamideh, the seconder, of the motion had no objection.

8.3 Motion #2 – Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank (Patrice Blais)

The motion, presented by Mr. Blais and seconded by Mr. Hamideh was tabled for discussion. Mr. Blais spoke briefly to the motion. He felt the reduction in the subsidy was done in a shadowy manner and the students were not informed properly. The result is that a very important service will now suffer the consequences. He added that the CSU funds a little more than 1/2 of the budget which is approximately \$65,000 for 2003-2004. Ms Drew did not appreciate the language used in the motion. The use of the word “shadowy” in the motion was particularly inappropriate. She explained to Mr. Blais that the Student Services budget proposal for 2003-2006 was distributed to Council at the February 2003 meeting. Students were invited to contact the directors to clarify any issues or concerns before the April 2003 meeting. Included in the budget package was a one page sheet clearly detailing the reduction in the subsidy for the Off-Campus Housing and Job Bank for the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. A motion to approve the budget, which was seconded by a student, was passed unanimously at the April 2003 CCSL meeting. After discussion, it was decided that the CSU/Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank would submit a revised motion requesting CCSL to reconsider its decision to reduce funding to this service. In light of this, Mr. Blais withdrew his original motion. Mr. Hamideh, the seconder had no objection. Mr. Blais said he would take the responsibility of informing Off-Campus Housing & Job Bank.

8.4 Motion #3 – Appointment of Dean of Students (Patrice Blais)

The motion, presented by Mr. Blais and seconded by Ms Naqvi was tabled for discussion. Mr. Blais said in conversations with the Rector, he was assured that students would have a significant say in the appointment of a new Dean of Students. He also indicated that the interim Dean of Students has been in his position since January 2003. He felt there should be some commitment by the University to replace the Dean of Students. Dr. Jans felt it was important to have all the information before approving this or any motion. He asked whether there was actual confirmation of this commitment by the Rector. Dr. Bertrand explained that historically the position of Dean of Students has been filled through an appointment. He also informed council that he is currently working with the Vice-Rector Services on the restructuring of Student Services and the appointment of a Dean of Students. Ms Drew felt it was important to understand it was not

an issue of not believing Mr. Blais with respect to his conversation with the Rector but there are many ways students can give input or participate in the selection process for a Dean of Students. Therefore it is difficult to ascertain what level of student participation the Rector meant.

Dr. Jans, seconded by Me Frégeau, asked that this motion be tabled until the next CCSL meeting. He asked that clarification on this issue be obtained from the Rector's Office. Dr. Jans' motion was put to vote:

9 in favour 2 not in favour 4 abstentions

8.5 Motion #4 (Patrice Blais). Mr. Blais asked that this motion be deferred to the November CCSL meeting.

8.6 Motion #5 Capital Campaign Fund (Patrice Blais)

The motion, presented by Mr. Blais and seconded by Mr. Hamideh, was tabled for discussion. Mr. Blais spoke briefly on the history of the student participation in the Capital Campaign. He was always assured that 10% of the funds were earmarked for student initiatives. To his knowledge there has never been a structure established for the disbursement of these funds. Ms Gould spoke to the issue. She explained that seven umbrella associations were involved in the decision not to have a referendum to decide on student contributions to the capital campaign but rather to have open forums on both campuses to deal with this issue and with students' concerns. She agreed that there has not been a structure for the disbursement of the student fund. She did not foresee any difficulty with the proposed membership for the disbursement committee as proposed by Mr. Blais. However, she felt it was important to have representation on the committee from the Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations and the Dean of Students. She also pointed out, as the ECA's contribution to Capital Campaign is different from the other umbrella associations, it may not be appropriate for ECA to have representation on this committee. Mr. Côté felt that as this committee would report back to CCSL on the use of the funds, it should be similar in structure to other CCSL sub-committees. Dr. Bertrand asked Mr. Blais how he wished to proceed. Mr. Blais asked that the motion be divided in two as a friendly amendment and asked that Council vote on the first part:

Whereas 10% of the capital campaign money is supposed to be allocated by student leaders

Whereas no such structure currently exists to allocate that money from the capital campaign

Be it resolved that the Interim Dean of Students provides a complete accounting of such money collected to be presented at the next CCSL meeting

The motion as amended was carried unanimously

The 2nd part of the motion dealing with membership of the committee was tabled until the next CCSL meeting.

As it was now 12:00 noon, Dr. Bertrand asked that Motions 4,6,7 be deferred to the November CCSL meeting. Council was in agreement.

9. Next Meeting: November 28, 2003 H 769 SGW 10:00am

10. Termination of Meeting: A motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Jans and seconded by Mr. Rosenshein.